



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCTOBER 23 1987

Dear Mr. Shumway:

I am responding to your letter of September 21, 1987, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Florence Reynolds. Ms. Reynolds expressed concern about the medical assistance the Afghan resistance receives from the United States.

In the fiscal year just ended, the United States provided over \$30 million to help relieve the suffering of Afghans affected by the brutal Soviet invasion and occupation of their homeland. Of this amount, approximately \$6.8 million was specifically for medical aid. The refugees also receive a separate allocation of approximately \$20 million worth of foodstuffs.

Administered by the Agency for International Development, our humanitarian aid programs include projects in health, education, agriculture and commodity support. To the extent possible, we seek to channel funds through the resistance Alliance, which is able to implement programs throughout Afghanistan. In addition, the United States provided for Afghan refugees in Pakistan last fiscal year nearly \$69 million. This assistance was provided through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee for the Red Cross, and other similar international organizations.

The recent achievements of the Afghan resistance in the health field are particularly notable. With the help of our government, the Alliance Health Committee has established an office to provide medical care to Afghans living in areas of the country not under the Kabul regime's control. They are also training Basic Health Workers to provide emergency first aid. By October of 1988, we expect that over 1,000 paramedics will be trained through this program.

In addition, a limited number of wounded Afghans resistance fighters who cannot otherwise be treated in Pakistan are brought to the United States for pro bono medical treatment. The United States spent \$8 million last fiscal year to transport these patients and to deliver donated humanitarian supplies, such as food and clothing, to the refugees in Pakistan.

The Honorable,
Norman D. Shumway,
House of Representatives.

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as warm weather clothing and fuel bars) through the Commodity Export Program. Thousands of food packs, designed to be easily transportable, cost-effective, nutritious, and acceptable to Islamic dietary codes, have been distributed inside Afghanistan. The Commodity Export Program has also financed the purchase of vehicles and pack animals that are critical to the transport of humanitarian goods.

Through the Humanitarian Relief Program, which is jointly managed by A.I.D. and the Department of Defense, more than 700 tons of humanitarian goods have been provided over the past 18 months. The majority of these goods are collected from DOD excess property supplies but U.S. private voluntary organizations have also been actively involved in collecting goods. The planes which transport the commodities return with war-wounded men, women, and children who have been selected to receive free medical care in American, European, and Middle Eastern hospitals. As of December 31, 1987, over 500 patients had been treated worldwide. Several Members of Congress have sponsored patients under the program.

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program

A.I.D. supports a number of American and European private voluntary organizations (PVOs) that conduct activities that are important components of the Afghan initiative. In FY 1987, 12 organizations were granted over \$9 million for 15 activities. The largest portion of funds was committed to organizations